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10 **BEFORE THE**
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 2013-692

13 **DEBORAH ANN RANSOM**
14 **a.k.a. DEBORAH ANN PLAFCAN**
a.k.a. DEBORAH PLAFCAN RANSOM
15 **24 Pine Trace Road**
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

A C C U S A T I O N

16 **Registered Nurse License No. 305162**

17 Respondent.

18
19 Complainant alleges:

20 **PARTIES**

21 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her
22 official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of
23 Consumer Affairs.

24 2. On or about August 31, 1979, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered
25 Nurse License Number 305162 to Deborah Ann Ransom, a.k.a. Deborah Ann Plafcan, a.k.a.
26 Deborah Plafcan Ransom (Respondent). The Registered Nurse License was in full force and
27 effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2013,
28

1 unless renewed.

2 JURISDICTION

3 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following
4 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise
5 indicated.

6 4. Code section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any
7 licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided
8 in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.

9 5. Code section 2764 provides that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the
10 Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a
11 decision imposing discipline on the license. Under section 2811(b) of the Code, the Board may
12 renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.

13 6. Section 492 of the Code provides in pertinent part, that, notwithstanding any other
14 provision of law, successful completion of any diversion program under the Penal Code, or
15 successful completion of an alcohol and drug problem assessment program under Article 5
16 (commencing with Section 23249.50) of Chapter 12 of Division 11 of the Vehicle Code, shall not
17 prohibit any agency established under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of this code, or
18 any initiative act referred to in that division, from taking disciplinary action against a licensee or
19 from denying a license for professional misconduct, notwithstanding that evidence of that
20 misconduct may be recorded in a record pertaining to an arrest.

21 STATUTORY PROVISIONS

22 7. Section 2761 of the Code states in relevant part(s) that the board may take
23 disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or
24 license for any of the following:

25 (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

26 ...

27 (4) Denial of licensure, revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other disciplinary action
28 against a health care professional license or certificate by another state or territory of the United

1 States, by any other government agency, or by another California health care professional
2 licensing board. A certified copy of the decision or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that
3 action.

4 . . .

5 (f) Conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications,
6 functions, and duties of a registered nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be
7 conclusive evidence thereof.

8 8. Section 490 of the Code provides, in pertinent parts, that a board may suspend or
9 revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially
10 related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the
11 license was issued. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of
12 guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. An action that a board is permitted to
13 take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has
14 elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting
15 probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under
16 Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

17 REGULATORY PROVISIONS

18 9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444, states in pertinent part that a
19 conviction or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or
20 duties of a registered nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences the present or potential unfitness
21 of a registered nurse to practice in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare.

22 COST RECOVERY

23 10. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the
24 administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of
25 the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and
26 enforcement of the case, with failure of the licentiate to comply subjecting the license to not being
27 renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be
28 included in a stipulated settlement.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
(Unprofessional Conduct - Out of State Discipline)
(Bus. & Prof. Section 2761, subd. (a)(4))

11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(4), in that on or about April 25, 2012, in a disciplinary action before the Mississippi Board of Nursing (Mississippi Board), the Mississippi Board made Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and thereon entered an Order for Formal Reprimand and restricting Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Mississippi for a minimum of twelve (12) months. Respondent agreed to comply with the restrictions set forth in the Mississippi Board's Order with the understanding that failure to do so would subject her license to further action. The circumstances underlying this discipline follow.

12. On or about January 4, 2012, the Mississippi Board issued an Order suspending Respondent's nursing license for reasons of public health, safety or welfare based on Respondent's admission that on or about December 31, 2010, she knowingly marked "no" when asked if she had ever been convicted of, plead guilty, or pled "no contest" to any felony or misdemeanor charge pending against her nursing license. A criminal background check revealed that on or about December 1, 2005, Respondent was convicted by her plea of No Contest to violation of Penal Code sections 484/487(a) (petty theft) in California Superior Court, County of Santa Clara, Case No. BB514089. On or about August 22, 2007, Respondent violated her probation.

13. Respondent admitted to the Mississippi Board that on or about February 13, 2011, she was arrested in the State of Hawaii for theft.

14. Respondent admitted that on or about August 26, 2011, she submitted an application for employment at Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center wherein she marked "No" when asked if she had ever been convicted of a crime and/or released from confinement following a conviction for any criminal offense.

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15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code Section 2761(a), 2761(f) and/or Section 490 of the Code, in that she committed offenses and/or acts and was convicted of a crime or crimes substantially related to the discipline for which she is licensed. The underlying circumstances are that on or about December 1, 2005, Respondent was convicted by her plea of No Contest to violation of Penal Code sections 484/487(a) (petty theft) in California Superior Court, County of Santa Clara, Case No. BB514089. Respondent was granted 3 years formal probation with imposition of the sentence suspended for the probation period. The Court ordered that Respondent serve 30 days in jail, perform 40 hours of volunteer work as directed by the Court Probation Officer, submit to search, educational/vocational training, participate in programs for substance abuse, psychology, theft, and assessed fines and fees. On or about August 22, 2007, Respondent was ordered to serve additional time in jail for violating probation.

16. On or about September 28, 2010, in the Board's Citation Case No. 2009-1838 Respondent was assessed a \$1,000.00 fine based on her conviction on underlying circumstances as follows:

18. On or about June 7, 2002, the Mississippi Board issued a Formal Reprimand to Respondent in Case No. R-865399 in that she practiced as a Registered Nurse in Mississippi without a current license.

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

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1 2. Ordering Deborah Ann Ransom, a.k.a. Deborah Ann Plafcan, a.k.a. Deborah Plafcan
2 Ransom, to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and
3 enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;

4 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

5
6 DATED: MARCH 2, 2013

for *Louise R. Bailey*
LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RN
Executive Officer
Board of Registered Nursing
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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